

Lynch	Olver	Sherman
Majette	Ortiz	Skelton
Maloney	Owens	Slaughter
Markey	Pallone	Snyder
Marshall	Pascarella	Solis
Matheson	Pastor	Spratt
Matsui	Payne	Stark
McCarthy (MO)	Pelosi	Stenholm
McCarthy (NY)	Peterson (MN)	Strickland
McCollum	Pomeroy	Stupak
McDermott	Price (NC)	Tanner
McGovern	Rahall	Tauscher
McIntyre	Rangel	Taylor (MS)
McNulty	Reyes	Thompson (CA)
Meehan	Rodriguez	Thompson (MS)
Meek (FL)	Ross	Tierney
Meeks (NY)	Rothman	Towns
Menendez	Roybal-Allard	Turner (TX)
Michaud	Ruppersberger	Udall (CO)
Millender-	Rush	Udall (NM)
McDonald	Ryan (OH)	Van Hollen
Miller (NC)	Sabo	Velazquez
Miller, George	Sanchez, Linda	Visclosky
Mollohan	T.	Waters
Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Watt
Moran (VA)	Sanders	Waxman
Murtha	Sandlin	Weiner
Nadler	Schakowsky	Wexler
Napolitano	Schiff	Woolsey
Neal (MA)	Scott (GA)	Wu
Oberstar	Scott (VA)	Wynn
Obey	Serrano	

NOT VOTING—14

Brown-Waite,	Gephardt	Paul
Ginny	Herger	Smith (WA)
Cubin	Jefferson	Stearns
Dooley (CA)	Lewis (CA)	Watson
Evans	McInnis	Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1551

Mr. GORDON changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, JULY 3, 2003, TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight, July 3, 2003, to file a privileged report, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-

marks, and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 2559.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 298 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2559.

□ 1553

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2559) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with Mr. BASS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present to the House H.R. 2559, the fiscal year 2004 military construction appropriations bill. This legislation provides funds for all types of construction projects on military installations here in the U.S. and abroad. Projects range from barracks and housing to training ranges and runways.

I would like to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), for his advice and support and cooperation in producing this recommendation. He has been a good partner, and I appreciate having the gentleman there to work together on this bill.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all members of the subcommittee for their help in putting together this year's bill. I commend the good work done by the subcommittee staff, Tom Forhan, Brian Potts, Mary Arnold, Kim Reath, and Valerie Baldwin. This has made my transition to chairman an easy one. I want to thank my personal staff, Jeff Onizuk and Lieutenant Commander Scott Gray. I appreciate the long hours they have put in making this the best bill possible.

The bill presented today totals \$9.196 billion, which complies with the 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays. This recommendation is, however, \$41 million below the President's request, a reduction of less than 1/2 of 1 percent. Excluding funds provided in response to the global war on terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the bill is \$605 million or 6 percent below fiscal year 2003 enacted levels.

For the first time in recent memory, this subcommittee has produced a recommendation that is below the President's request. This is the hand that we were dealt under current budgetary constraints, and we have tried to deal with it in as fair a manner as possible.

I assure Members the committee did due diligence to find as much savings as possible for the bill, and I believe we left no stone unturned in this process. This bill continues the subcommittee's bipartisan tradition of quality of life first for our service men and women. This is our paramount goal, and I believe we have reached it.

As many Members are aware, the Department of Defense is undertaking a privatization effort for military housing. For those of us who have seen the results thus far, this is an exciting development. What it means for the family housing account of this bill is that less money does not mean less housing. It means that we are getting more bang for our buck. For example, take the Residential Communities Initiative at the Presidio of Monterey. Using only the basic allowance for housing, the BAH, 2,168 new homes will be built and 41 historic units will be renovated. In addition, the private contractor will build wider roads, playgrounds, amenities such as community centers and swimming pools, and so on. What had been substandard housing will become an enviable community for our military families, and it will come at no cost, no cost to the family housing account in this bill.

The bottom line is that the funding in this bill does not slow down the effort to revitalize our military family housing. In fact, that effort is accelerating because of this privatization initiative.

I would like to take a moment to highlight some key areas in the bill. First, \$1.24 billion is provided for troop barracks. This is a \$62 million increase from last year's level. This sends a positive message to our unaccompanied personnel stationed all around the world that their quality of life is a priority.

The bill includes \$194 million for hospital and medical facilities, an increase of \$25 million above last year's level. This is another positive quality-of-life message, one intended for all service members as well as their families.

\$274 million is provided for community facilities, an increase of \$45 million above the President's request. These facilities include child development centers, fire stations, schools, and physical fitness centers.